CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A system for selecting options associated with a computer comprising:

a display device for displaying a first list of menu options and a list of unique

5   accelerators where each accelerator is associated with one of said first list of menu

options;

a receiving device for receiving from a remote control device a key press

associated with one of said accelerators;

an execution device for performing a function corresponding to the one

10   accelerator.

2.   The system according to claim 1 wherein each of said unique

accelerators comprises a single numeric digit.

3.   The system according to claim 1, wherein said display device also

displays an additional option not associated with one of said list of accelerators

15   wherein said additional option is a currently running application.

4.   The system according to claim 1, wherein said display device also

displays an additional option not associated with one of said list of accelerators

wherein all accelerators have been previously assigned to other options of said first

list of options.

03797.09780   MS # 97172

5.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the function performed is to display a second list of menu options associated with said received key press wherein said list of accelerators is removed from association with said first list of options and associated with said second list of options.

5   6.   The system according to claim 1, further comprising a storage for storing at least one additional key press associated with said accelerators in addition to said received key press;

wherein said execution device determines the association of said at least one additional key press to at least one additional option and executes said at least one 10   additional option before said display device displays said additional option.

7.   A method for selecting options associated with a computer through selection of dynamically assigned unique accelerators comprising the steps of:

associating a first list of menu options and a list of unique accelerators where each accelerator is associated with one of said first list of options;

15   displaying the combination of said first list of options with said list of accelerators in a menu format;

receiving from a remote control device a key press corresponding to one of said list of accelerators; and,

executing a function corresponding to the one accelerator.

03797.09780   MS # 97172

8.   The method according to claim 7 wherein each of said unique accelerators comprises a single numeric digit.

9.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

displaying an additional option not associated with one of said list of

5   accelerators wherein said additional option is a currently running application.

10.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

displaying an additional option not associated with one of said list of accelerators wherein all accelerators have been previously assigned to other options of said first list of options.

10   11.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

unassociating said list of accelerators from said first list of options upon execution of said function;

associating said list of accelerators with a second list of options to be displayed in response to said execution;

15   and displaying said second list of options with said associated list of accelerators.

12.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

storing at least one additional key press associated with said accelerators in addition to said received key press;

determining the association of said at least one additional key press to at least one additional option;

executing said at least one additional option before a display of said additional option.

5   13.   A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

dynamically associating a first list of menu options and a list of unique accelerators where each accelerator is associated with one of said first list of options;

displaying the combination of said first list of options with said list of

10   accelerators in a menu format;

receiving, from a remote control device, a key press associated with one of said list of accelerators;

executing a function corresponding to the one accelerator.

14.   The computer-readable medium of claim 13 having further computer-

15   executable instructions wherein each of said unique accelerators comprises a single numeric digit.

15.   The computer-readable medium of claim 13 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

displaying an additional option not associated with one of said list of

accelerators wherein said additional option is a currently running application.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

displaying an additional option not associated with one of said list of

5   accelerators wherein all accelerators have been previously assigned to other options

of said first list of options.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

unassociating said list of accelerators from said first list of options upon

10   execution of said option of said first list of options associated with said received key

press;

associating said list of accelerators with a second list of options to be

displayed in response to said execution;

and displaying said second list of options with said associated list of

15   accelerators.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

storing at least one additional key press associated with said accelerators in

addition to said received key press;

determining the association of said at least one additional key press to at least one additional option;

executing said at least one additional option before a display of said additional option.

5   19.   A system for controlling computer functions, comprising:

a remote control device comprising a first button which generates a first signal indicating that a menu should be displayed, a second button which generates a second signal indicating that an application specific function should be performed, and a plurality of numeric keys each of which generates a numeric signal indicating a
10   numeric selection;

a computer including a receiver which receives the signals generated by the remote control device; and

a display device coupled to the computer and controlled by software executing on the computer;

15   wherein the remote control device transmits signals to the receiver of the computer over a wireless path; and

wherein the computer in response to receiving the first signal causes the display device to display a menu comprising choices at least one of which has a associated numeric accelerator and, in response to receiving one of the numeric

signals, launches an application program associated with one of the numeric accelerators and, in response to receiving the second signal, causes a launched application program to perform a function pertinent to that particular application.

20.   The system of claim 19, wherein the computer in response to detecting the first signal provides information to applications executing on the computer which causes them to display menu information in a different manner than if the first signal had not been received from the remote control.

21.   The system of claim 19, wherein the computer inhibits the display of all taskbars, menus, and buttons until the first signal is received.

22.   The system of claim 19, wherein, in response to the launching of the application program, said computer removes the association of said numeric accelerator from the choices of the menu and associates said numeric accelerators with choices of a nested menu.

23.   The system of claim 19, wherein the operation of at least one of said first button, said second button, and said numeric keys causes said computer to switch from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation.

24.   A method for controlling computer functions, comprising the steps of:

providing a remote control device comprising a first button which generates a first signal indicating that a menu should be displayed, a second button which

generates a second signal indicating that an application specific function should be performed, and a plurality of numeric keys each of which generates a numeric signal indicating a numeric selection;

receiving at a computer the signals generated by the remote control device over a wireless path;

in response to receiving the first signal, displaying on a display device coupled to the computer and controlled by software executing on the computer a menu comprising choices each having an associated numeric accelerator;

in response to receiving one of the numeric signals, launching an application program associated with one of the numeric accelerators; and,

in response to receiving the second signal, causing a launched application program to perform a function pertinent to that particular application.

25.   The method of claim 24, comprising the further steps of:

in response to detecting the first signal, providing information from said computer to at least one application executing on the computer; and

causing said applications to display menu items in a different manner than if the second signal had not been received from the remote control device.

26.   The method of claim 24, including the step of:

inhibiting the display of all taskbars, menus, and buttons until the start signal is

received.

27. The method of claim 24, comprising the further steps of:

in response to the launching of the application program, removing the association of said numeric accelerator from the choices of the menu; and,

5   associating said numeric accelerators with choices of a nested menu.

28. The method of claim 24, comprising the step of:

switching from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation in response to the operation of at least one of said first button, said second button, and said numeric keys.

10   29. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving at a computer signals generated by a remote control device over a wireless path, said remote control device including a first button which generates a first signal indicating that a start menu should be displayed, a second button which

15   generates a menu signal indicating that an application menu should be displayed, and a plurality of numeric keys each of which generates a numeric signal indicating a numeric selection;

in response to receiving the first signal, displaying on a display device coupled to the computer and controlled by software executing on the computer a menu

comprising choices each having an associated numeric accelerator;

in response to receiving one of the numeric signals, launching an application program associated with one of the numeric accelerators; and,

in response to receiving the second signal, causing a launched application

5   program to display a menu providing choices pertinent to that particular application.

30.   The computer-readable medium of claim 29 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

in response to detecting the first signal, providing information from said computer to at least one application executing on the computer; and

10   causing said application to display menu information in a different manner than if the start signal had not been received from the remote control device.

31.   The computer-readable medium of claim 29 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

inhibiting the display of all taskbars, menus, and buttons until the first signal is

15   received.

32.   The computer-readable medium of claim 29 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

in response to the launching of the application program, removing the association of said numeric accelerator from the choices of the menu; and,

03797.09780   MS # 97172

associating said numeric accelerators with choices of a nested menu.

33.   The computer-readable medium of claim 29 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

switching from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation in

5   response to the operation of at least one of said first button, said second button, and said numeric keys.

34.   A system comprising:

a computer;

an input device coupled to the computer which receives input from a user; and

10   a display device coupled to the computer, wherein the display device can be operated in one of a plurality of screen resolutions;

wherein the computer controls the display device to generate menus of a particular physical size relative to the display device screen size in accordance with input from the user, such that a user can control the size of the menus independently

15   of resolution changes caused by changing to a different screen resolution.

35.   The system of claim 34, wherein the computer multiplies a sizing factor entered by the user with a current screen resolution to determine the size of the menu.

36.   A method comprising:

03797.09780   MS # 97172

operating a display device coupled to a computer in one of a plurality of screen resolutions;

receiving at a computer input from a user via an input device;

controlling said display device to generate menus of a particular physical size

5 relative to the display device screen size by determining a ratio of screen size to menu size in accordance with input from the user, such that a user can control the size of the menus independently of resolution changes caused by changing to a different screen resolution.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the computer in said controlling step

10 multiplies a sizing factor entered by the user with a current screen resolution to determine the size of the menu.

38. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

operating a display device coupled to a computer in one of a plurality of

15 screen resolutions;

receiving at a computer input from a user via an input device;

controlling said display device to generate menus of a particular physical size

relative to the display device screen size accordance with input from the user, such

that a user can control the size of the menus independently of resolution changes

03797.09780   MS # 97172

caused by changing to a different screen resolution.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 38 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

multiplying a sizing factor entered by the user with a current screen resolution

5 to determine the size of the menu.

40. A system for highlighting a current selection comprising:

a storage for storing a list of menu options;

a display for displaying the list of menu options in response to a start or menu

button, each option residing in a shape, one of said list being the current selection;

10 a processor for determining which of said list of menu options is the current

selection, for enlarging the size of said shape, and for controlling said display to

display said enlarged shape surrounding said current selection.

41. The system according to claim 40, wherein the shape is a rectangle.

42. The system according to claim 40, where said processor alters the size

15 of said shape by altering a registered window size applied to the current selection.

43. A method for highlighting a current selection comprising the steps of:

displaying a list of menu options in response to the reception of a signal

corresponding to a start or menu button with each option residing in a shape where

one of said list being the current selection,;

03797.09780   MS # 97172

determining by a processor which of said list of menu options is the current selection;

enlarging the size of said shape surrounding said current selection; and,

controlling said display to display said enlarged shape surrounding said current

5   selection.

44.   The method according to claim 43, wherein the shape is a rectangle.

45.   The method according to claim 43, wherein said enlarging step enlarges the size of said shape by altering a registered window size applied to the current selection.

10   46.   A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

displaying a list of menu options in response to the reception of a signal corresponding to a start or menu button with each option residing in a shape where one of said list being the current selection;

15   determining by a processor which of said list of menu options is the current selection;

enlarging the size of said shape surrounding said current selection; and,

controlling said display to display said enlarged shape surrounding said current selection.

47.   The computer-readable medium of claim 46 wherein said computer-executable instructions define the shape as a rectangle.

48.   The computer-readable medium of claim 46 wherein said computer-executable instructions for performing the enlarging step enlarges the size of said

5   shape by altering a registered window size applied to the current selection.

49.   A system for scrolling through a list of menu options displayed on display comprising:

a display for displaying a list of menu options in response to a start or menu button where one of said menu options is a current selection;

10   a receiver for receiving a user command to alter the current selection with respect to the list of menu options;

a processor for controlling said list of menu options to scroll through the current location of said current selection as currently displayed on said display and for controlling the display to display the list of menu options with the new current

15   selection as scrolled by said processor.

50.   The system of claim 49, wherein said processor moves the location of said current selection in the direction of an end of said list of menu options before moving said list of menu options through said current location.

51.   The system according to claim 50, wherein said list of menu options is

displayed in a number of cells, and wherein said processor scrolls said list of menu options at least one cell removed from a border of said display.

52.   A method for scrolling through a list of menu options displayed on display comprising the steps of:

5   displaying on a display a list of menu options in response to receiving a start or menu button;

designating one of said menu options as a current selection;

receiving a user command to alter the current selection among the list of menu options;

10   controlling said list of menu options to scroll through the current location of said current selection as currently displayed;

controlling the display to display the list of menu options with the new current selection as scrolled by said processor.

53.   The method of claim 52, comprising the further step of:

15   moving the location of said current selection in the direction of an end of said list of menu options before moving said list of menu options through said current location.

54.   The method of claim 53, wherein said list of menu options is displayed in a number of cells, and further comprising the steps of:

fixing the location of said current selection cell; and,

scrolling said list of menu options through said current selection cell at least one cell removed from a border of said display.

55.   A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

displaying on a display a list of menu options in response to receiving a start or menu button;

designating one of said menu options as a current selection;

receiving a user command to alter the current selection among the list of menu options;

controlling said list of menu options to scroll through the current location of said current selection as currently displayed;

controlling the display to display the list of menu options with the new current selection as scrolled by said processor.

56.   The computer-readable medium of claim 55 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

moving the location of said current selection in the direction of an end of said list of menu options before moving said list of menu options through said current location.

03797.09780   MS # 97172

57.   The computer-readable medium of claim 56 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

fixing the location of said current selection cell; and,

scrolling said list of menu options through said current selection cell at least

5   one cell removed from a border of said display.